

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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LB 176

does take 30 votes, I will remind you. Mr. Clerk, record.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to suspend the germaneness rule.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion to suspend the germaneness rule has been...has carried. Senator Beutler, to open.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Cudaback, members of the Legislature, I think there are several good aspects to this bill now. From the point of view of simple...of simplifying administration, it certainly finally brings together two of the funds we've been working with for a long time, and we've kind of kept them separately because they developed, historically, separately, but they had a lot of overlap. And so what we've endeavored to do is to bring together the tire recycling and the Waste Reduction Fund, and now we have one fund. This is good for tire people, because under current law, if nothing were done this year, the tire fund would end this year, and there would be no further priority for tires. But with this bill, \$1 million a year, for up through June 1st of 2002, will be set aside for tires. And beyond that, there will be a further priority for tires in the general giving of money out of the Waste Reduction Fund, the consolidated fund. The second aspect of this that is really important for a lot of people, we had another fund out there, you may recall, we called the Litter Fund. And the Keep America Beautiful programs that work with communities and kids to clean up roadsides and that kind of thing, they were funded out of the Litter Fund. Well, a few years ago, we took all money in excess of \$800,000 and fed it into the Waste Reduction Fund because we thought the priorities there were more important than the priorities under the Litter Fund. That was never really agreed to, and I think the committee, this year, decided that maybe that money was better off back in the Litter Fund. And so the Keep America Beautiful people are happy with this because that overflow money that used to come into the Waste Reduction Fund and was taken away from the Litter Fund is now being given back to the Litter Fund. So that is a positive aspect of it from the point of view of the many, many communities that were interested in that particular program. And then the third, I think, really beneficial aspect of this is that it creates a rebate program under certain conditions whereby different communities can come